

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING STUDENT COMPREHENSION

- Make sure that you have all students' attention BEFORE you ask a question. Students should be tracking as they read or listen to others read. When you are ready to ask a question, tell students "Fingers down to keep your place. Eyes on me." Do not ask the question until everyone has done what you asked. Then when it is time to go on with the reading, everyone will know where to start.
- Explicitly distinguish between group and individual responses. If the word "signal" precedes a question in the TPB, say "Everybody" before asking the question. If the script has "Call on a student" or "Idea" before the question, say "Individual Turn" before asking the question.
- The amount of time it takes students to process your question and come up with an answer varies from child to child. Do not make the mistake of asking a question and immediately signaling or calling on someone. Always give 3-5 seconds of Think Time before expecting an answer.
- Verify EVERY CORRECT RESPONSE in a complete sentence that reflects the question. This helps students make a connection between what was asked and the correct answer. Example: If the question is "How many centimeters are in a meter?" it is more effective to say "Yes, there are 100 cm in a meter" instead of just repeating "Yes, 100". Put the answer in context.
- Whenever a correct individual response is given:
 - a. Summarize, if appropriate
 - b. Verify
 - c. Re-ask the question to the GROUP. That way you know that all students have heard and can repeat the correct answer.
- Be prepared to take the students to the part of the text where the answer can be found, if necessary.